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BATMAN

THE NEW 52!



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THE NEW 52!



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Digital Copy
Inside!

THE FIRST TIME WAS FRIGHTENING, WASN'T IT?

WWW... WHH.

IT'S OKAY. IT WAS SCARY FOR ME, TOO!

WHERE...

SHHHHH. YOU'RE SAFE.

LOOK! LOOK! HERE IT COMES, SEEEEE?

JOKER...

YESSS, DARLING. JOKER IS HERE WITH YOU IN THE DARK. WE'RE WATCHING IT COME FOR YOU, AS I'M SURE IT DID THAT FIRST TIME.

OOOHHH... IT WANTSSSS YOU! WANTS YOU BAD!

JOKER, LISTEN TO--

NO. THERE IS NO REASONING WITH IT... IT WAS THE SAME FOR ME, WHEN I SAW IT COMING... WHEN I SAW YOU COMING. NO REASONING!

STOP THIS! NOW!

AND SO YOU CALLED OUT THERE IN THE DARK! EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW YOU WERE SEEING IT! YOUR FACE, THE REAL BONE AND TOOTH FACE BEHIND IT ALL.

JOKER!

YOU KNEW IT IN YOUR SOUL, BUT STILL YOU CALLED OUT TO SOMEONE, ANYONE, TO PULL YOU UP FROM THE DARKNESS.

DC COMICS presents BATMAN in
DEATH OF THE FAMILY CONCLUSION

THE PUNCHLINE

SCOTT SNYDER writer GREG CAPULLO penciller
JONATHAN GLAPION inker

FCO PLASCENCIA colorist RICHARD STARKINGS and
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT lettering

CAPULLO & PLASCENCIA cover
TONY DANIEL, MATT BANNING & TOMEU MOREY variant cover

KATIE KUBERT assoc. editor MIKE MARTS editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE

...AND INTO THE
LIGHT.

MY
GOD...

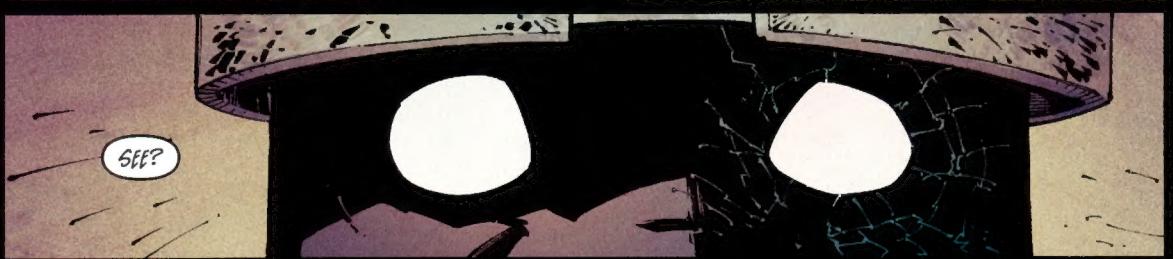
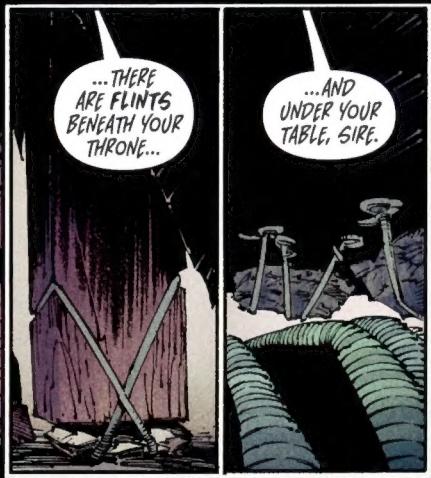
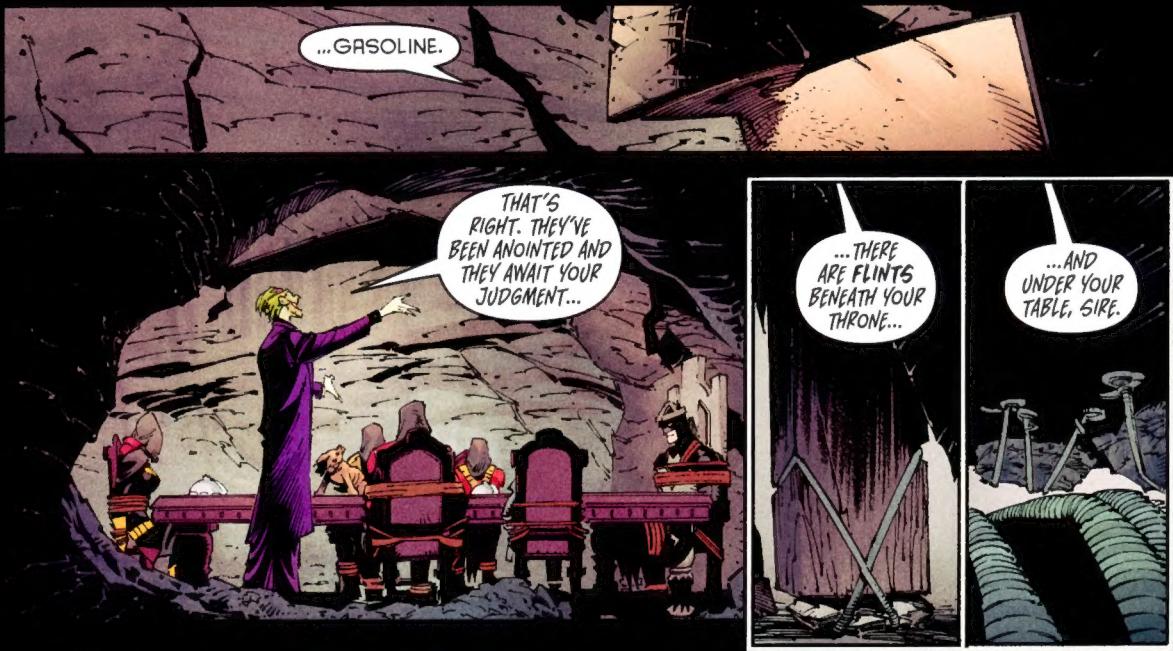
TA-DAAA!

DINNER IS
SERVED!

OH, AND DON'T
WORRY, OLD FRIEND.
THEY'RE ALL FINE
AND DANDY.

MMNNFFF!





HE'S
RIGHT HERE AND
JUST ITCHING
TO HELP!



ALFRED...
ALFRED, THANK
GOD.

MR. PENNYWORTH!
NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE,
WILL YOU DO THE HONORS
OF OPENING OUR GUESTS'
EYES TO THE FEAST
BEFORE THEM?



HAHAHAHA
HAHAHA...

MMNNN!

ALFRED,
LISTEN TO
ME...

NO, LISTEN
TO ME, ALFIE, OLD
BOY. GO ON NOW.
IT'S TIME...

HAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
HA...





WHAT HAVE I
DONE? I'VE SIMPLY
DRESSED THEM FOR
THE PARTY!

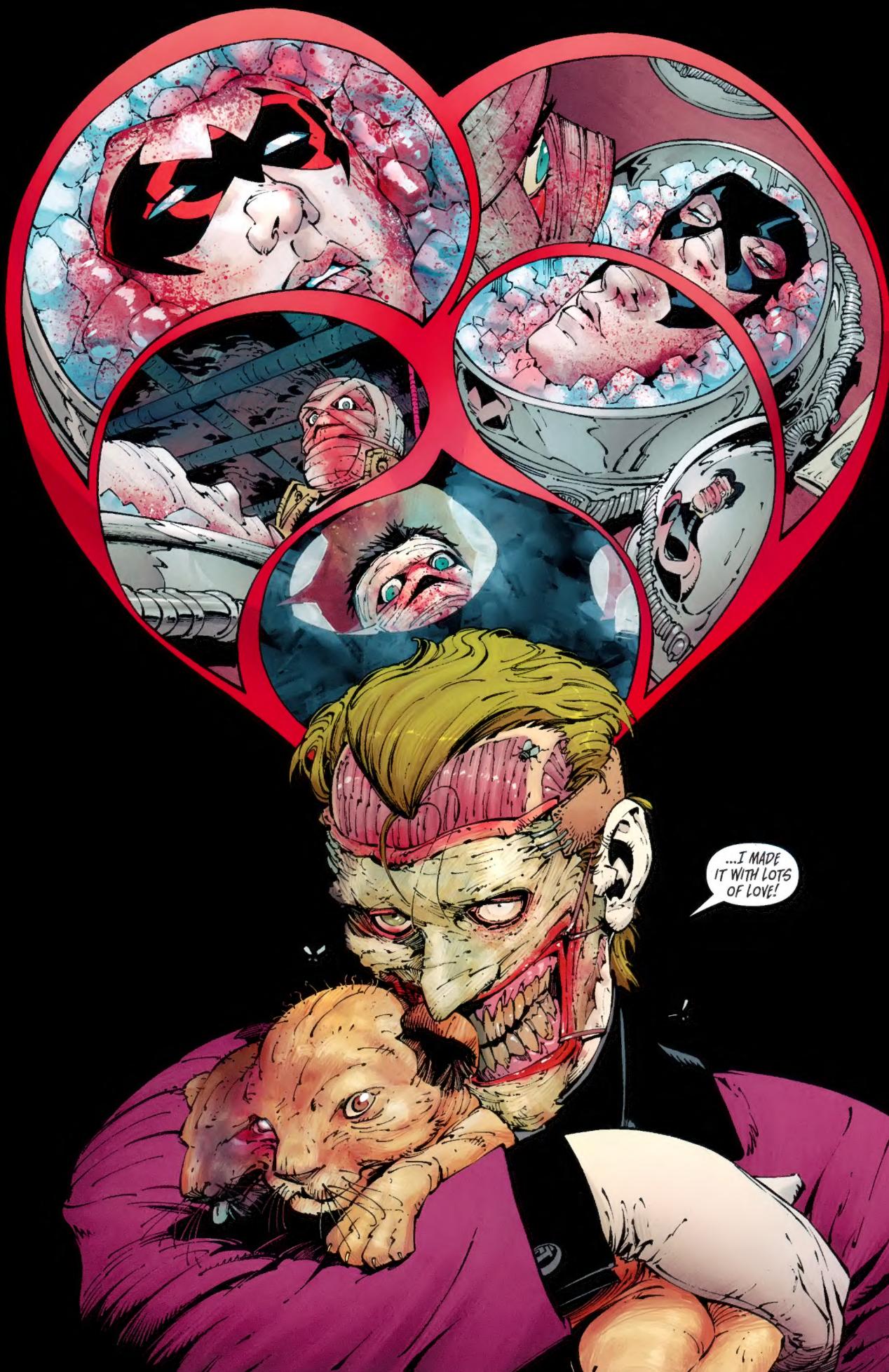
OR RATHER,
UNDRESSED THEM. TAKEN
OFF THE CLOTHES THAT HAVE BEEN
INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT
YOU, MY KING.

EXPOOOOOSSED
THEM.

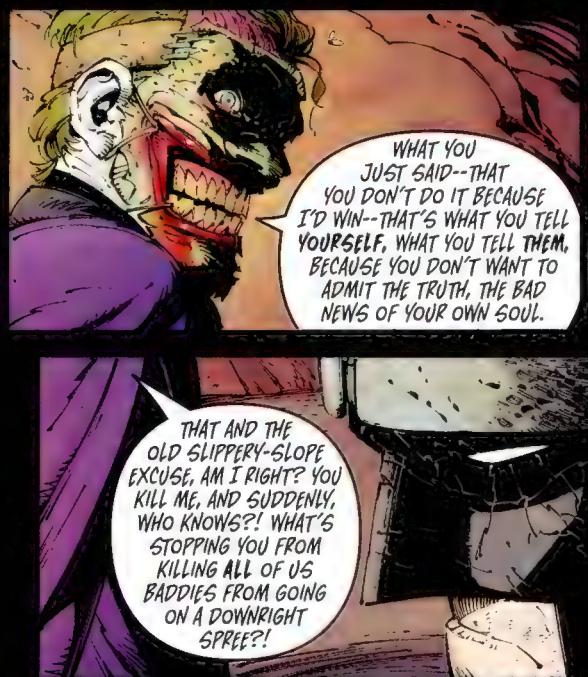
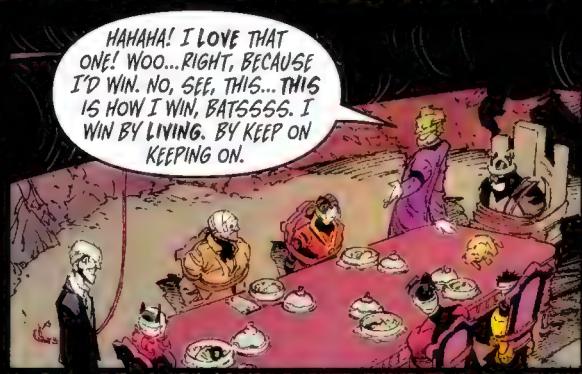
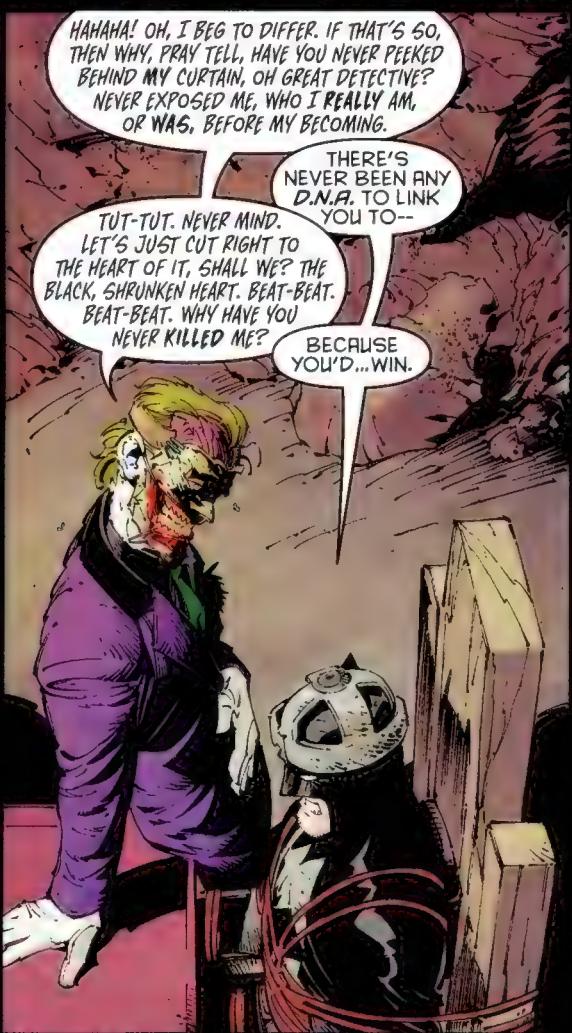
AND SPEAKING OF
EXPOSING, MR. PENNYSWORTH,
WOULD YOU SERVE US,
PLEASSESSSSE?

I SO
HOPE YOU LIKE IT,
EVERYONE...





...I MADE
IT WITH LOTS
OF LOVE!



BUT I CALL GUANO THERE, OLD FRIEND. I MEAN, YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULDN'T KILL JUST ME, JOKER, AND STOP? NO ONE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW.

YOU COULD DO IT SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM PRYING EYESSSS, DOWN IN THE DARK, AND THEN YOU COULD BEAR THAT CROSS, COULDN'T YOU?

ALAS, POOR JOKER, I KNEW HIM AND SO ON?

NO.

AH, THAT'S YOUR STORY AND YOU'RE STICKING TO IT (HEE HEE). BUT THEN ANSWER ME THIS DITTY. HOW DID I KNOW? HOW DID I KNOW YOU'D NEVER TELL THEM ABOUT THIS?! ABOUT HOW I'D BEEN IN YOUR LITTLE H.Q.?

BECAUSE WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING. I'LL BET YOU'VE SAID IT TO THEM THESE PAST FEW DAYS, HAVEN'T YOU? "YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM." SURE YOU HAVE...

...BECAUSE THE UGLY TRUTH OF IT IS, BATSSSS =SIGH= IS THAT YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THEM. YOU KNOW IT, I KNOW IT, AND NOW THEY KNOW IT, TOO. THEY KNOW HOW YOU

WANT ME TO KILL THEM. HOW YOU LEAVE THE DOORS UNLOCKED AT NIGHT, HOPING I GET THEM.

HOPING I GET HIM.

AND HIM.

AND HIM (AGAIN).

AND HIM.

AND HER.

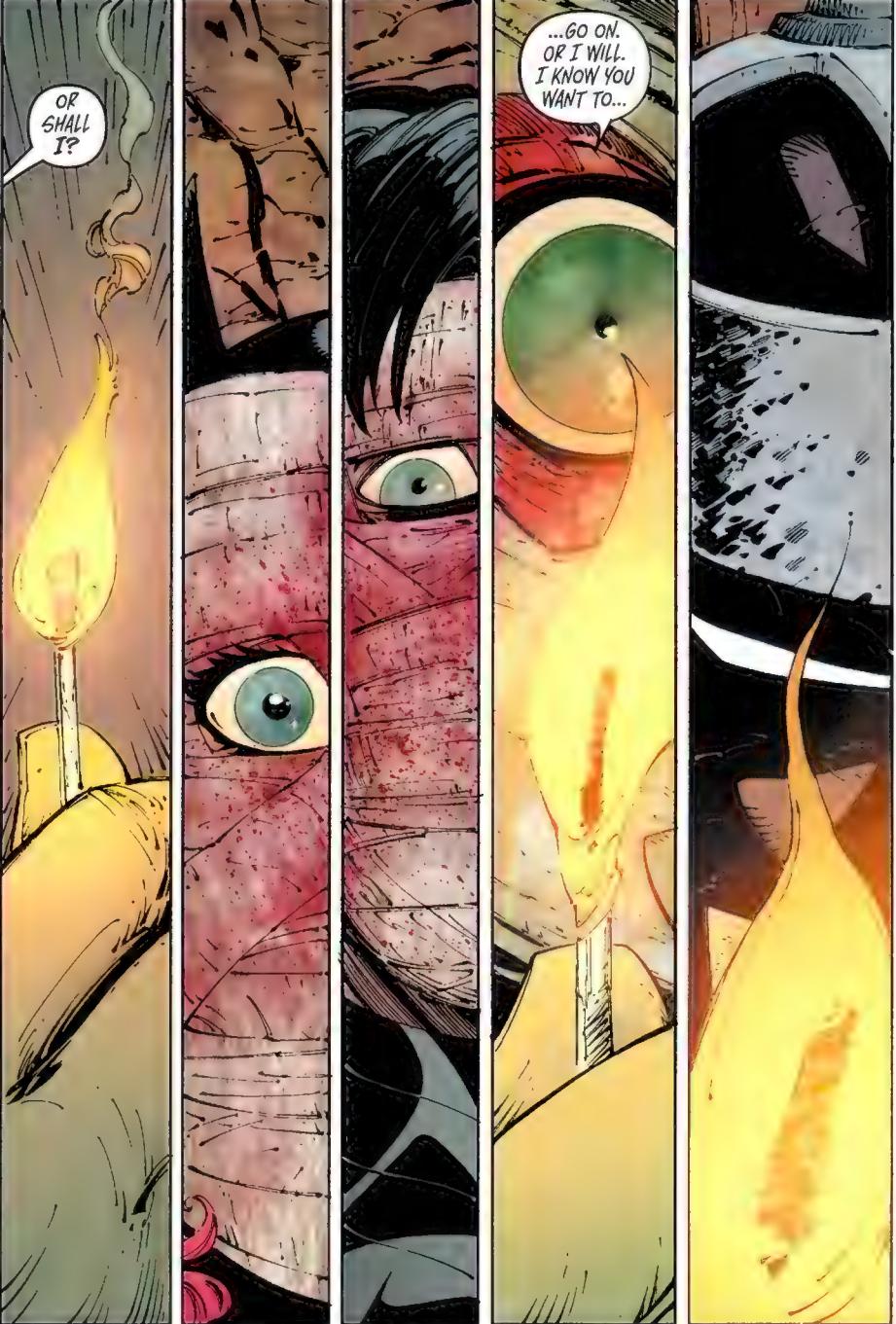
IN THE END, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WROTE THIS FOR ME, DARLING...



...A LOVE
LETTER.
A BACKWARDS
MAP. A HIT
LIST...

...AND SO, BATS, I DID IT
FOR YOU. I CARRIED OUT
YOUR ORDERS. AND NOW ALL
THAT'S LEFT FOR US TO DO,
YOU AND I, IS CELEBRATE!
SO LET'S, MY FRIEND. LET'S
PUT THE KIDDIES TO BED
AND RAISE SOME HELL.

WELL,
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO DO THE
HONORS?



OR
SHALL
I?

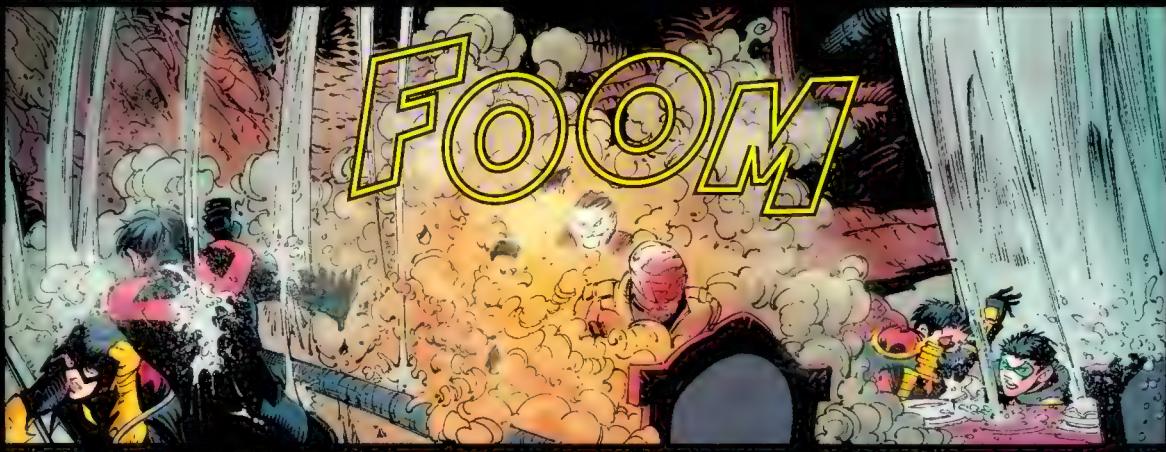
...GO ON.
OR I WILL.
I KNOW YOU
WANT TO...













YAAAAHHH!



UNH!

YOU
HAD TO GO
AND RUIN THE
MOOD, DIDN'T
YOU?



BLOWING OUT
THE CANDLES, KILLING
THE AMBIANCE!

WELL, AT LEAST YOU
FOLLOWED ME OUTSIDE
TO CONSOLE ME, PICK MY
CORSAGE OFF THE GROUND
AND TALK ME BACK
INTO YOUR ARM--

SHUT UP.



NO
MORE
TALK.

ENOUGH.

AH,
I SEE.

A DANCE,
THEN!

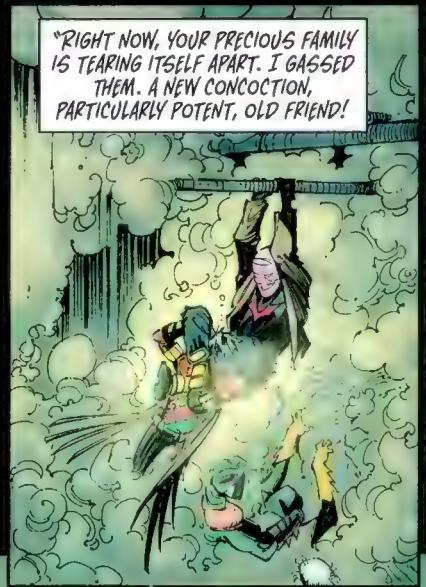
NO MORE
DANCES.

WHAT...WHAT
DO YOU MEAN?
HEH.

I MEAN,
NO MORE
OF ANY
OF IT...

NO MORE
QUARRELING...

KOFF
HEH HEH...
THEN JUST THE
QUARREL.



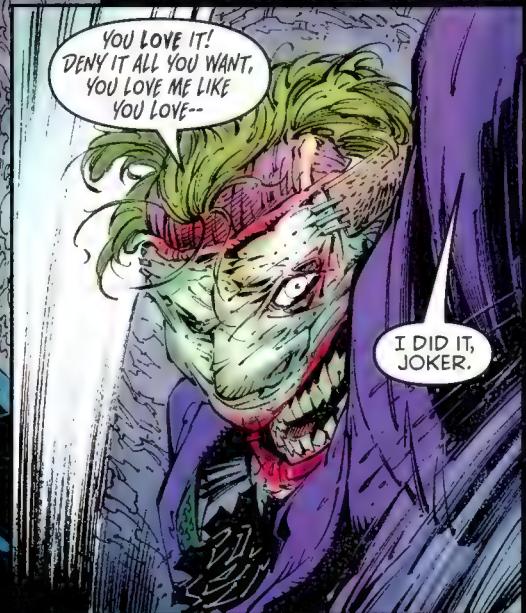


...HAHAHA
AGH!



ABOUT WHY I DON'T JUST DO IT, FINALLY

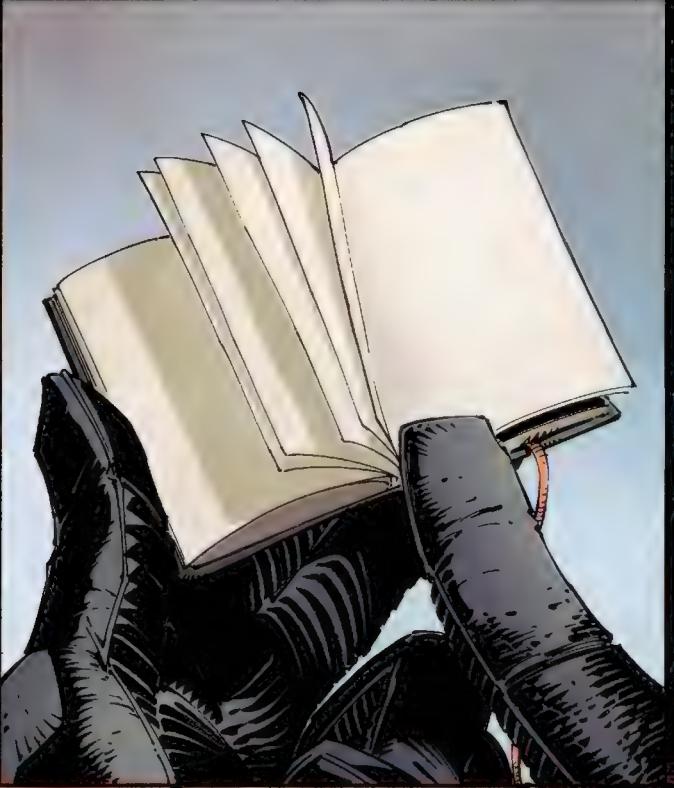




AND THIS YEAR, WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, I FINALLY DEDUCED IT. WHO YOU WERE BEFORE.









WHAT IS IT, SIR?

I WENT TO SEE HIM, ONCE, ALFRED. I VISITED HIM...

...IN ARKHAM. IT WAS JUST AFTER WE TOOK DICK IN. I WENT UNDER THE GUISE OF BRUCE WAYNE INVESTING IN A NEW WING FOR THE ASYLUM.

"WHEN WE NEARED HIS CELL, I ASKED THE DIRECTOR FOR A GLASS OF WATER. MADE A SHOW OF IT.

"ONCE I WAS ALONE, I WENT TO HIS DOOR."

JOKER.



I FOUND THIS. I THINK IT BELONGS TO YOU.



HE LOOKED RIGHT AT THE CARD, ALFRED, AND RIGHT AT ME.



...BUT...BUT HE DIDN'T SEE ME. HE DIDN'T SEE ME AT ALL.



IT WAS THEN THAT I KNEW—

—KNEW THAT HE DIDN'T CARE WHO I WAS BENEATH THE MASK, AND NEVER WOULD. KNEW THAT HE WAS INCAPABLE OF EVEN BROACHING THE SUBJECT OF BRUCE WAYNE. IT WOULD RUIN HIS FUN.



SO I KNEW THERE WAS NO CHANCE HE GOT INTO THE CAVE. I KNEW IT BECAUSE I **KNOW** HIM. KNOW HIM BETTER THAN I LIKE TO ADMIT. BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO SAY THAT TO THEM, THE FAMILY. TO EXPLAIN IT...

...BUT WHAT HE SAID DOWN THERE, ALFRED, ABOUT WHY I REFUSE TO KILL HIM...?

IT'S TRUE I DON'T DO IT BECAUSE OF MY CODE, BECAUSE OF WHAT I **STAND** FOR. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER REASON, TOO...

AND IT'S THAT THIS CITY... I TRULY BELIEVE THAT IF I DID IT, IF I **KILLED** JOKER, GOTHAM WOULD JUST SEND ME SOMEONE **WORSE**. MAYBE EVEN SEND **HIM** BACK, BUT **WORSE** THAN BEFORE. I KNOW HOW IT SOUNDS, BUT--

HE'S GONE, NOW, SIR. IT'S OVER.

YES.
I'LL RING YOU WHEN THE FAMILY ARRIVES. THAT'S **TIM** TEXTING NOW.

Tim:
Bruce. Something came up. Sorry, I won't be able to make it today.

HE... CAN'T MAKE IT. THERE'S SOMETHING FROM **BARBARA**, TOO.

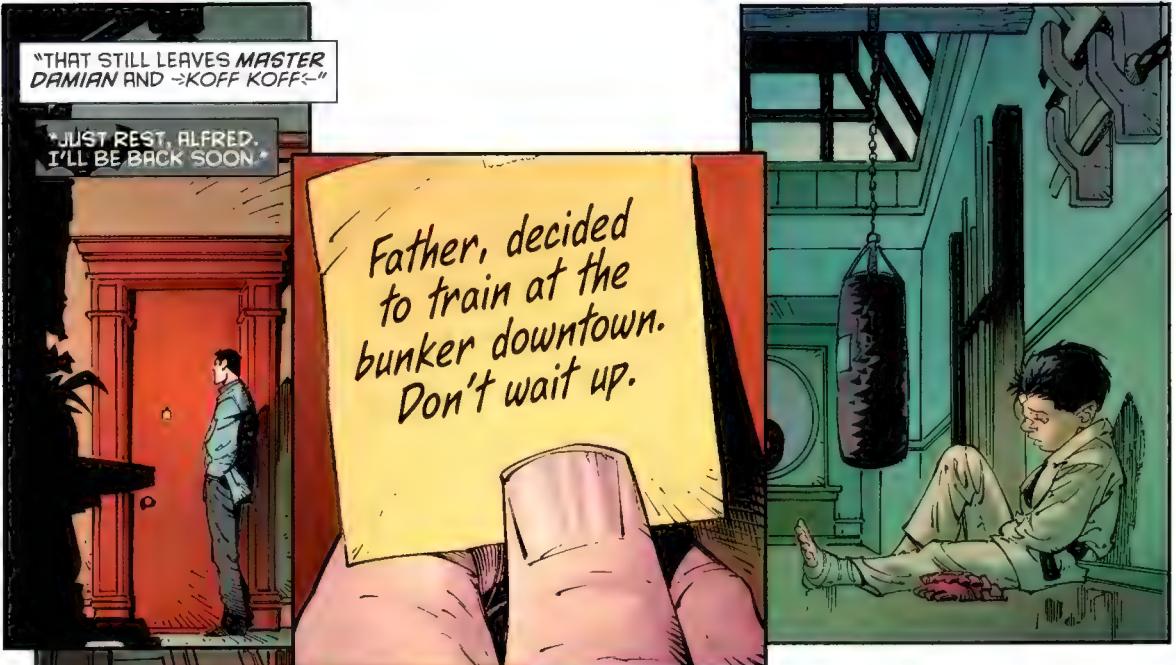
Barbara: BRUCE, Dad asked me to help him out with some th Rainy

STILL NO WORD FROM JASON.

"THAT STILL LEAVES MASTER DAMIAN AND -KOFF KOFF--"

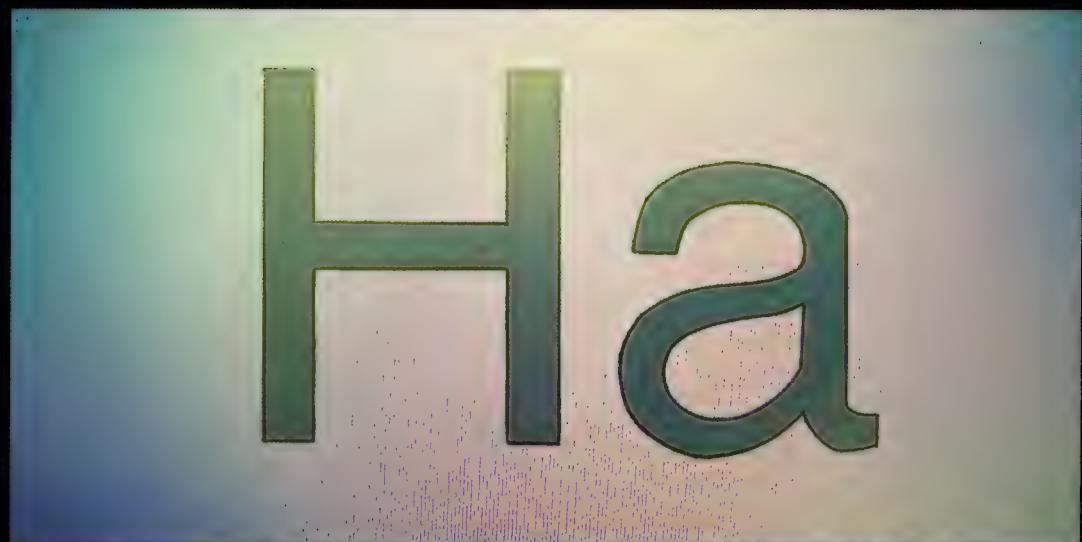
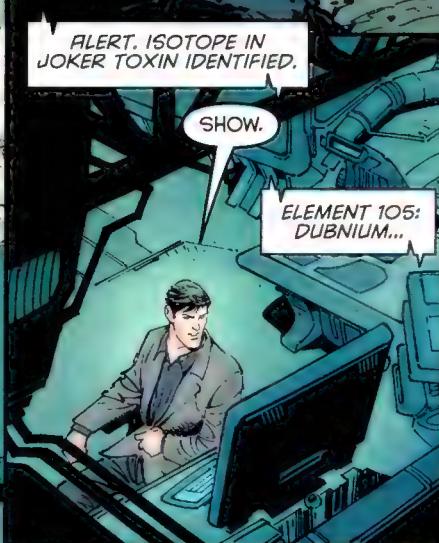
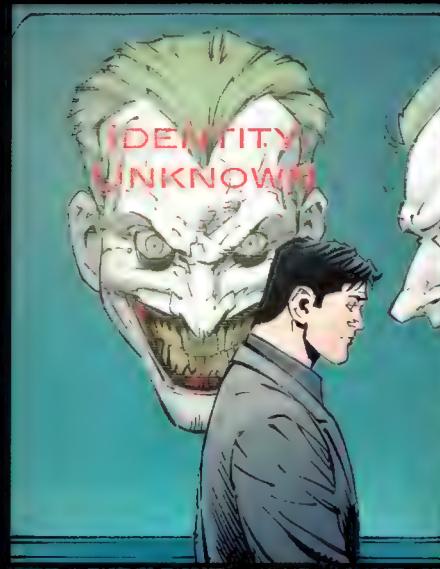
"JUST REST, ALFRED.
I'LL BE BACK SOON."

Father, decided
to train at the
bunker downtown.
Don't wait up.



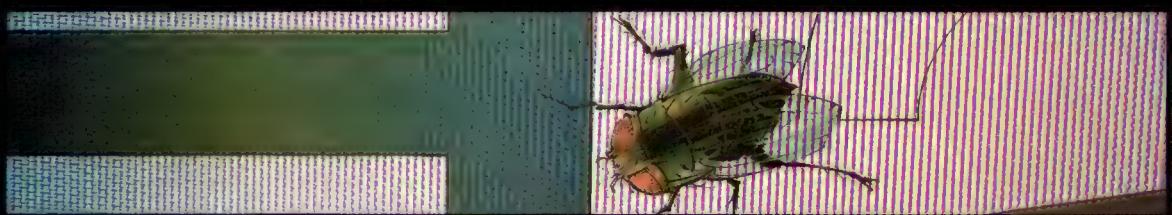
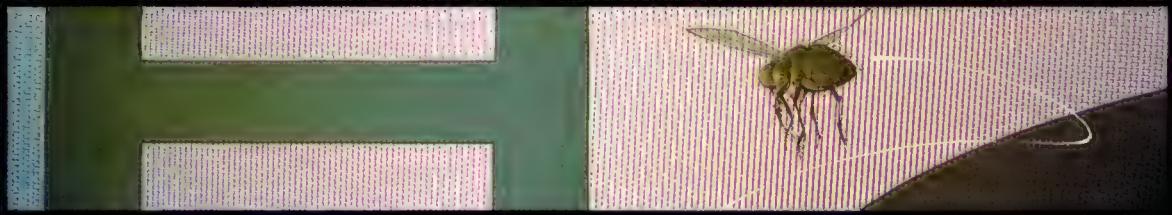
I'LL SEE
YOU AROUND,
BRUCE.



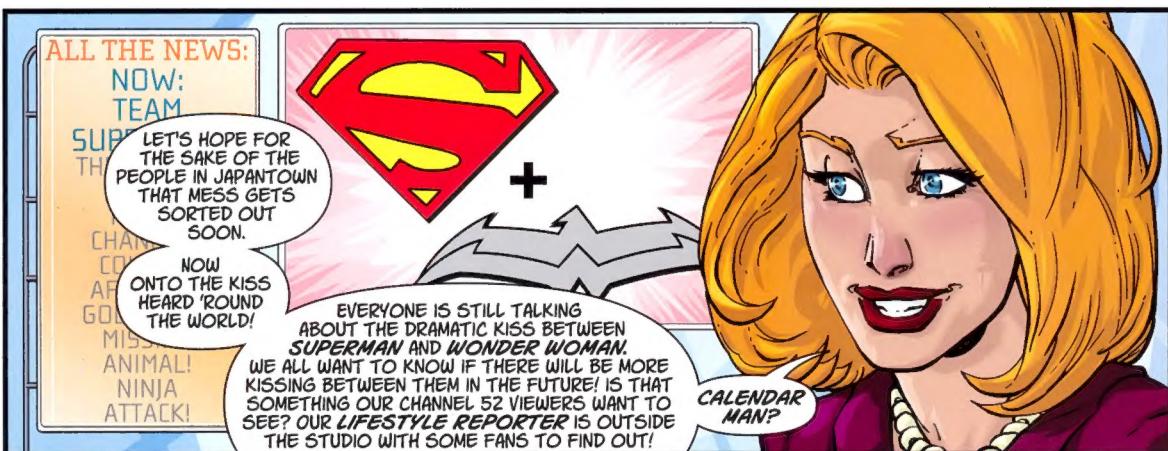
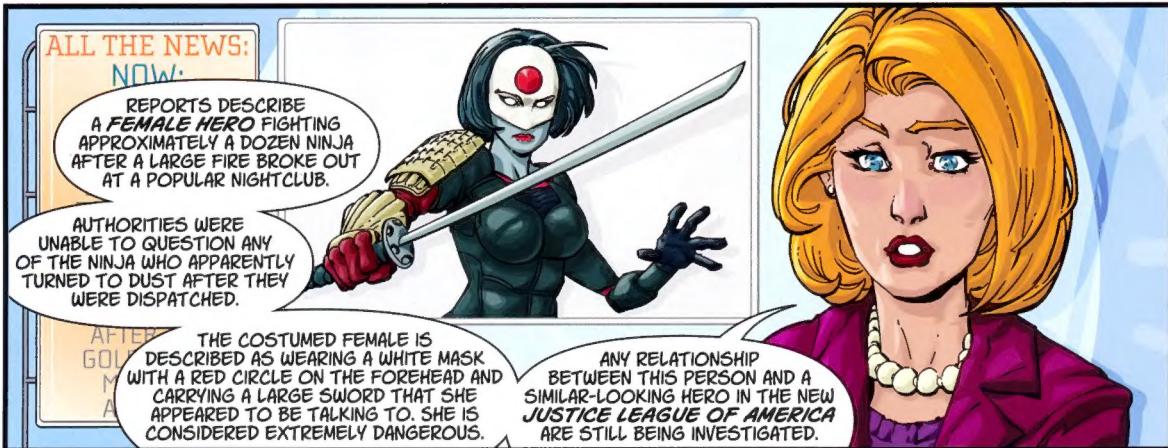
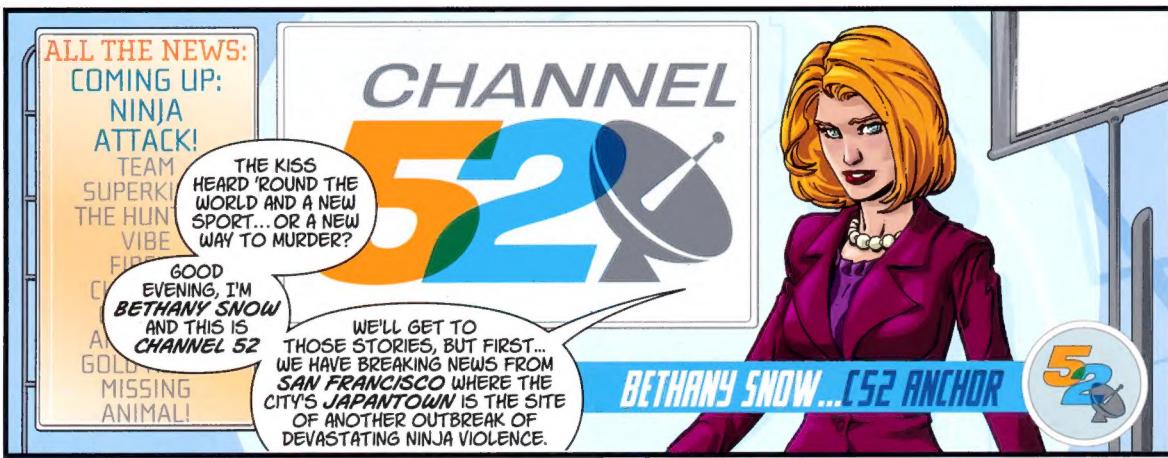


Ha

Ha



END





A

LL THE NEWS...

In a world with Supermen, Wonder Women and Bat-people, finding a program that keeps you current on ALL of the latest news shouldn't be a task you need superpowers for. Hi! I'm Bethany Snow from **Channel 52**, and I'm here to let you know that your search for an all-inclusive newscast is over. We live in fantastic times, so you and your family need to stay informed. You have questions, and we have answers. All of them! From super heroes to super villains and everything in between – if it's affecting your day, you can turn straight to **Channel 52** for answers.



Channel 52 offers you the very best in news coverage with our expert team of on-the-scene reporters, hard-hitting investigative journalism and advanced fact-based reasoning. Speaking of our expert team, let me introduce you to our multi-award-winning field correspondent A. Bug. It's become painfully clear that we're not alone in the universe, so Vartox is here as our off-planet space expert (and also sports!). The social lives of the cape-and-cowl set often impact what happens to us "normal people," so our very own Calendar Man is the **Channel 52** lifestyle reporter and also an inspirational reminder to us all about the positive power of change. Together we will never rest until every question is asked and repackaged as an infographic.

So make sure to tune in to **Channel 52** for your news...all of it!

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BATMAN (ISSN #1264-8736) 17 April, 2013. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 8537, Big Sandy, TX 75755-0537. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$33.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2013 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. The paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dcomicsadvertising@dc.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dccomics.com/go/ratings. Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beauville, QC, Canada. 2/1/13.

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